GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:507
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON SAFETY ISSUES
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have prepare a comprehensive report on all safety issues;

(b) if so, whether they have also decided to issue a `White Paper` which has been demanded by all parties;

(c) if so, the main recommendations made by the committee;

(d) to what extent the Ministry has considered the views of the expert committee; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement them for the rail safety ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.507 BY SHRI IQBAL AH SARADGI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.02.2003 REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON SAFETY ISSUES.

(a) : A high level committee called Railway Safety Review Committee (RSRC) under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna was set up in August 1998, to review safety performance of Indian Railways. The Committee submitted Part-I of its report in August 1999 and Part-II in February 2001.

(b) : Yes, sir.

(c) to (e): The Railway Safety Review Committee made 150 recommendations in Part-I and 128 recommendations in Part-II of the report. These include recommendations on investment planning and policies, personnel matters, track and bridges, rolling stock, signalling and telecommunication, disaster management, safety organisation and matters concerning Commission of Railway Safety etc. Of the total 278 recommendations made in both the parts of the report of the Committee, 214 have either been accepted fully or partially. 28 recommendations have not been accepted and 36 are under scrutiny.

Action to implement the accepted recommendations is under various stages depending upon availability of resources and success of trials, in some cases. Necessary directives have been issued to the field and compliance is being monitored at various levels.

In order to implement one of its major recommendations, Central Government has already set up a non-lapsable `Special Railway Safety Fund` of Rs.17,000 crore to wipe out arrears in renewal of over-aged assets of track, bridges, signalling and rolling stockand safety enhancement works within a fixed time frame of 6 years.